

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 051215Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8035

UNCLAS TEHRAN 7465

PASS COMMERCE, PASS FDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IR

SUBJ: RAFSANJAN PISTACHIO PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER CONCERNING AFLATOXIN FROM DR A RAFFII, PRESIDENT OF RAFSANJAN PISTACHIO PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE, AND MEMBER OF THE IRANIAN SENATE. HE ALSO APPROACHED AMBASSADOR ON SUBJECT. PORTIONS OF LETTER (CERTAIN WORDS OMITTED ARE QUOTED BELOW.

2. "TWO YEARS AGO AFLATOXIN PROBLEM BEGAN AND SINCE THEN CAUSED US A LOT OF TROUBLE AND GREAT LOSSES. TEAM OF FDA OF US VISIT US 1971 AND 1972 IN RAFSANJAN TO FIND CAUSE OF OUR PROBLEM AND SOLVE IT. THEY HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL. PARA. UNIVERSITY ISFAHAN HAS DEPARTMENT UNDER SUPERVISION OF PROF BARNETT, US SCIENTIST, WHO ALSO WORKS ON AFLATOXIN PROBLEM. WHEN DR CAPBELL, FDA SCIENTIST, CAME TO IRAN THIS YEAR TO STUDY THE MATTER TOGETHER WITH PROF BARNETT, THEY FOUND OUT THAT THE PISTACHIOS GET INFECTED ON THE TREES. PARA. RPPC ALSO HAS ITS OWN LABRATORY AND ALWAYS CHECKS THE PISTACHIOS DELIVERED BY ITS MEMBERS. PARA. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS YEAR 5,000 BAGS PISTACHIOS WHICH RPPC EXPORTED TO US HAVE BEEN DETAINED. IF FDA DOES NOT RELEASE THE 5,000 BAGS, RPPC HAS TO RETURN THEM TO IRAN, AS IT IS NOT ALLOWED TO EXPORT THEM TO ANOTHER AMERICAN COUNTRY. IN THIS CASE RPPC WILL SUFFER GREAT LOSSES. PARA. THEREFORE, I KINDLY REQUEST YOU TO USE ALL YOUR INFLUENCE ON FDA OFFICIAL SO THEY RELEASE THE RPPC PISTACHIOS THIS

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YEAR, AND I PROMISE YOU PERSONALLY THAT RPPC LABORATORY TOGETHER

WITH THE STANDARD LABORATORY WILL WORK PROPERLY NEXT SEASON AND DO THEIR BEST TO EXPORT BEST QUALITY PISTACHIOS TO US AND NOT INFECTED ONES."

3. SENATOR RAFFII STATED HIS COOPERATIVE SMALL WITH CAPITALIZATION OF ONLY \$1 MILLION, AND REPRESENTS LIVELIHOOD FOR LITERALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS PERSONS IN PISTACHIO GROWING AREA.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON SUBJECT DEPARTMENT CAN OBTAIN FROM FDA.
HELMS

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